

## LIFE IN PARIS.

## WOMAN IN ANCIENT AND MODERN TIMES.

THE TOMB OF GEORGE SAND—AN AMERICAN PARALYSED—THE AGES OF BLONDES—HISTORY OF BLONDE HAIR.

PARIS, Oct.—Silence is gathering by degrees around the grave of George Sand: it is the fatal law. Fashions in literature pass away like other fashions. It was quite in vain that George Sand touched religion, philosophy, and politics with a daring hand: all the stir she made has already subsided. It seems that authors nowadays write for the very currents and waves of the time, they are so soon borne into forgetfulness. The widow of Edgar Quinet attempted an edition of the works of George Sand, but she failed in her attempt, and she was forced to give it up while in progress, since she was not a subscriber. The Frenchman is so constituted that he is unwilling to render homage except to the high priests. He subscribes his money to Alfred de Musset and Balzac; but the others are very soon abandoned for the new-comers. And yet, what eloquent pages there are of George Sand, what marvelous landscapes, what throbbings of the heart! This famous woman makes one mistake—that of attempting to grapple with socialistic ideas. Amateur philosophers have often desired to force upon the door of politics in order that women might enter. They have summoned her to the platform, not seeing in their blindness that the true platform of woman is the hearthstone. They say that it is necessary to liberate her, that is, to throw her into all the prejudices of public life. They cry out that woman requires a place in society. Has she not already the first place, she who watches over the cradle?

Plato, who dreamed alone—Plato, who is the wisdom of antiquity to the dreamers of to-day—says that women, in courage and intelligence, are men. He demanded for them the study of music, the sports of the gymnasium; he wished to see them warriors and legislators. "Let the women of our soldiers be common among all, no one living apart with any single one. The children will then be in common, neither the parents knowing their children nor their parents."

Philosophers have done well in securing to woman, in the name of civil and religious right, the pre-eminence of the mother's place; but they dare not go so far as to accord to her the privilege of making laws and commanding armies. Apollo—a luminous philosopher, in his quality of great legislator, has determined, in his quality of great legislator, the powers of man and woman. Has he not said: "Man is the father of humanity, woman only its nurse?" Also Homer, the greatest of poets after Apollo, understood the duties of woman. "If the mother wishes to tie the knot of a second marriage," says Minerva to Telemachus, "let her return to her father's house. It is there that the suitors must go to ask for her hand." And Telemachus, in turn, says to his mother: "Return to thy apartment; resume thy occupations, the linen and the distaff; direct the industrious hands of thy women."

In fact, after Penelope returned to her home, did she not recover all the respect due to her as woman, wife, and mother? Xenophon has said that within her own mansion woman is sovereign; there she honors those who merit it; there she corrects those who disobey; in her she finds the family law. If we search further back in antiquity, if we go to Hesiod, we find that admirable image which describes woman as between man and the ox—the union of the two in common with nature.

Therefore George Sand did well to write romances, and therefore she would perhaps have done better for herself and those belonging to her if she had stayed at home. But Genius has its destiny; so the gift of writing romances!

It is a long time since any fables have been invented in Paris. Too many stories and too much history are made there; but, on the other hand, the French spirit is not lost, for we find it again at San Francisco, in the fables of M. Abel Laroché. This gentleman is a Parisian of the genuine Paris, whom the chances of things have led to America; but in changing his country he has not changed his tongue, for he speaks the supreme French of dilettanti and men of letters. Since he has the good sense not to write an essay upon the apologetic, neither will I propose any theory thereupon. The fabulist limits himself to these eight lines, at the head of his work: "I shall not spread myself over a long preface, the obligatory vestibule of all literary structures. I shall not speak of the nature of the apologetic, nor of its qualities, of which, moreover, no one is ignorant. But here is a little work, the fruit of my leisure evenings, which now appears in the ambitious form of a book. I did not design this honor for it: some friends have decided otherwise; let their will be done! Go then, my verses, take your flight; and since you are not pretentious enough to mount too high, I shall let less far your brilliant fall!"

We know how malicious was the general Lafontaine under all his gentleness. M. Abel Laroché uses the mask of naïveté to conceal his cleverness, and so all his fables are told with the charm of *abandon*. He forces neither his words nor his images, he gives proof of his literary culture, but never of *poëticité*. One seems to be listening to a man of the world who knows his world. It is the gossip of a sage who speaks of his wisdom, for the moral of his fables always strikes the right place. If Lafontaine and Florian, reputable masters in the charming art of fables, could read to-day the fables of M. Abel Laroché, they could not help exclaiming more than once: "Hold! I have forgotten this!" Our distant countryman has only written these fables in the *entree* of his life. I know some of his more serious works—for instance, a delightful family, the brightest expression of which is a beautiful young daughter of eighteen, who has all the graces and charms of a poem, to say nothing of her singing like Adelpa Patti!

And she is blonde.

It must be confessed, the Americans send the loveliest blondes to us in Paris. The nineteenth century will be decidedly the Age of Blondes, the sixteenth century was, and the seventeenth century was the age of periwigs. It is settled; all women are blondes, those of the South, equally with those of the North. Nestor Roqueplan has said: "God gave blonde hair to the Northern women, to console the Southern women for the absence of sun." At present, the Southern women blonde themselves by virtue of the *Eau de Fleu*, or by simply washing their hair with ammonia. One substance colors, the other uncolors. It is the miracle of chemistry.

When she was 25 years old, that foolish young creature whom we have named "Ophelia" on the French stage, first took the fancy to make herself blonde, for a change. As she said, she had no doubt of being able to initiate the change. Now, the New World and the Old are crazy over it; all women are eager to be blonde, especially those who have been brunettes. But why violate nature? Is white hair not a sacred crown to the head? Has not brunettes beauty its distinctive character and character, no less than blonde? I met, just now, a Russian princess who is renowned for her black hair and blue eyes, a combination which gave her an excessive charm. Well! Even she is determined to have blonde hair. And she has succeeded in ruining her face.

In the *Song of Songs* the bridegroom says to the Salomonic woman: "Thou hast ravished my heart with one of thine eyes, with one chain of thy neck." In the *Song of Songs*, the man of the Salomonic is compared to dove, bathed in milk on the edge of a fountain. Delightful image, which pictures the sweetness of the eyes swimming in their limpid margins! To what have eyes not been compared? Gallus says that the eyes of his mistress are stars; Lucianus, that the eyes burn and shine within the lashes like diamonds in rings of gold. And how many times has it not been said, as to Alcibiades, "Thine eyes dart forth sun-rays!" But all these amorous metaphors are eclipsed by that beautiful phrase in which the Arab poet declares that the eyes are light itself: "God said to her eyes: 'Be!'—and they were." All the primitive poets spoke of the eyes as a sufficient description of the woman: they were "graciously-lidded" or "love-bearing."

The ancient perhaps admired black eyes more than blue ones, although Anacreon was fascinated with the blue eyes of his mistress. Almost all poets find black eyes sweeter and more luminous; they love to see them contrasted with blonde hair; they have not yet invented eyes of the color of the air, or sky, or sea, eyes treacherous as the waves. If eyes have done such execution, from the creation of the world down to the present time, hair has intoxicated many a lip with its perfume. [Did not a king, coterie with Moses, become enamored of a tress of hair which the waves of the Nile carried to his feet? Was it not from the head of the Princess Mantrilla of the XIXth Dynasty, she who was named "The Palm"? The darkness of her hair was the darkness of the night.] She also, doubtless, was clothed by her hair when she came to die. Such abundant tresses must have weighed 200 cycles, like those of Absalom.

Clothed with her hair—an expression which dates from the lost Paradise. St. Paul said to the Corinthians that hair was given to woman as a veil to cover her. When Venus rises from the waves, conveyed by the Graces and Cupids, is she not naked still lovelier by that flower hair which radiates around her? For Venus is a blonde. So was Helen of Troy; and Daphne still more so. All antiquity adores blonde hair; for the poets, to be blonde was to be beautiful. Mars was blonde like Achilles. Mention is made of a ferocious hero, a tutor of cities, who dyed his hair blonde in order to have the mane of a lion. Mescalina was a brunette, but she always wore a blonde wig. Ovid was right in being indignant that the Roman ladies persisted in buying their hair from the Germans and the Gauls. In Brittany there is a song which says that for two thousand years the country girls there have sold their hair.

But Venus, Helen, Daphne, and the others, never bought those tresses which seemed to be "of fine gold, and kissed their feet." What a great dispute of poets and lovers on those two colors of the hair! "Cover thyself with thy hair," sings Sappho; "I love thee like the night, and in thine arms I shall forget the light!" An Arab poet says: "Thy black tresses beat their wings like the raven." A Greek poet: "Thy tresses black, and lively as the grasshopper." Pindar sang of golden hair and of black hair; but Horace celebrated only blonde. Ovid praised the beauty of Leodis, who was dark; "But Aurora was blonde," he cries, still dazzled by the splendor of the ray-fingering goddess. Another poet says: "The hair of her of gold, the neck is of milk." Where does blonde begin, and where end? The Greeks said: "Honey-colored hair," even as Alfred de Musset, "blonde as wheat." Color of the honey of the East, blonde as wheat. The Northern honey is faded blonde, the pale tint of the Germans, Swedes, and Dutch. It has not that warmth of tone that Venetian tint, which captivates all eyes. There is also that blazing gold which makes the red, a beauty even more unappreciated in the old time than now. Even Solomon is reported to have said to one of his 700 wives: "Wherefore that royal purple upon thy head?" Later, a Prophet exclaimed: "Whence that color of blood upon thy hair?" It was to recall the hair of the setting sun.

Golden hair is the most beautiful, because light is the ideal of all beauty. Apollo, the supreme of beauty, is crowned with disheveled light, according to the legend; and the hair of the Virgin, the transfiguration of Jesus, he represents him dazzling as the sun, with beaming hair. Homer compares his goddesses and his mortals to "Golden Vines."

## THE OTTOMAN EMPIRE.

## SERVIA SAVED BY RUSSIA.

THE TURKS RESTRAINED IN TIME FROM MARCHING ON BELGRADE—PROSPECT OF FURTHER CONCESSIONS AT CONSTANTINOPLE—THE PORTER WILLING TO GIVE ANYTHING BUT HOME RULE—RUSSIA MISTAKEN IN ENGLAND.

[FROM AN OCCASIONAL CORRESPONDENT OF THE TRIBUNE.]

LONDON, Nov. 2.—The situation in Turkey at the present time may be very briefly described. The Russo-Serbian army has been routed. Alexinatz is practically in the hands of the Turks, and there is nothing to prevent them from commencing their victory and marching on to Belgrade but the two months' armistice which the Porte has at length agreed to concede. How far the armistice is the result of the very peremptory ultimatum which Gen. Ignatieff delivered to the Porte on Tuesday night is a question which is still in doubt, but there can be no doubt that the Turkish victories inspired the ultimatum. The possibility of the Turks becoming victors in front of Alexinatz was evidently a contingency which had been left out of account at Livadia, and the receipt of the news may well have caused some alarm in the councils of the Czar. The only hope of averting a change in the diplomatic as well as the military position lay in compelling Turkey at once to say Ay or No to the question of a short armistice with which she has been dallying for the past month. Accordingly, on Tuesday, Gen. Ignatieff was instructed to demand from the Porte the acceptance of a six weeks' armistice and a suspension of hostilities within 48 hours, or else break off all diplomatic relations with the Porte and to leave Constantinople, notwithstanding the fact that the armistice was practically concluded and in reality only awaited signature.

Assuming, therefore, that Turkey has conceded all that Russia asks, it becomes of less importance to examine with minuteness the causes which on the one hand contributed to the delay, and on the other which induced the ultimatum. Still there are one or two points in which these considerations bear upon the future, and so far it is profitable to examine them. In the first place, as to the delay. Did it arise from the mere dilatory method of the Turks, was it anything more than the necessary consequence of the system of Ottoman Government, or was it part of a preconceived plan to make one last desperate struggle in Serbia before giving over, and thus, in the case of victory, to place the Porte in a better diplomatic position than she has all along held? If we accept the former alternative it will only tell against the Porte and make Russia more exacting in her requirement of fresh guarantees against such administrative impotence, and if the latter, she will hardly be in a better position, for it is impossible to regard Turkey in the same light as we would regard any other victor. She will inevitably have to be content with the mere honor—if such indeed it can be called—of having subdued her insurgent vassal. Not an inch of territory will be allowed her, and any sign of pressing upon the Servians any of the conditions which a victor generally imposes upon the vanquished will meet with a sturdy opposition from Russia, if not from the other Powers. Again, as to the ultimatum of Russia. Many suggestions have been made as to the cause of this step, but none are so feasible as the one I have mentioned. For even if the Russians did not fear that fresh victories would give the upper hand to the Turks, they at least knew that an ultimatum would place the appearance in their favor, and they could point to the armistice as the result of their demand.

Here then is ample room for the recurrence of new difficulties. The great hope of success lies in the moderation of the Sultan and his advisers, but the turn of events in front of Alexinatz may well add new difficulties in inducing the Porte to refuse much that has been asked of it and but grudgingly to yield a great deal more. Since the accession of the new Sultan, however, the prospect of Turkey placing herself in antagonism to the rest of Europe has very much diminished. No one seems so thoroughly to grasp the situation as he, and for the first time it appears that a Sultan on the throne who knows what Western opinion requires of his Government. He cannot forget that the present is the crisis with his country. If she is to be revived at all or made worthy of the position of a European power now is the last opportunity which will be given her of making herself so. The opportunity even now is not of the best or the surest unless the work is undertaken in a spirit which will command the confidence of the other Powers. The way in which the Sultan has always met the suggestions of the Powers, and indeed the way in which the Porte received the ultimatum of Russia, is not the least hopeful sign that, so far as Turkey is concerned, the probabilities of peace are not in great danger. Turkey seems willing to consent to almost anything which does not involve autonomy of the Christian provinces. She has shown a disposition to consent to any number of reforms and to give guarantees for their performance. The new Sultan has given some of the worst enemies of his country the belief that he is in earnest, and the only danger apprehended is that when it comes to the point the Muslims will be too many for him and that the new proposals for reform will go the way of all their predecessors.

If we turn to the other Power most interested in the negotiations, we see at once a less hopeful outlook. Apart from certain minor considerations, it is not in the interest of Russia to have a peaceful solution of the present difficulty. As a recent writer in the *Quarterly Review* pointed out with clearness, her traditions, her policy, and her diplomacy have ever been adverse to the maintenance of the Turkish Empire. We have seen from Serbia what might be the effect of a chain of autonomous States under the nominal suzerainty of the Porte, and Turkey may well essay to fight rather than yield such a point to Russia. It cannot be denied that if Russia is not playing what is familiarly known as a waiting game, she is at least keenly on the alert to gain every advantage which can be secured. A feeling of mistrust in Russia, which is daily increasing, has arisen among English politicians. This feeling has certainly received a great stimulus from recent occurrences, but however originating, however stimulated, it is rank political heresy, now to regard Russia in the light of a peacefully disposed power. At the present moment Mr. Gladstone is the only official politician of any note who stands by the Muscovite and professes to believe in his good intentions. The notion that Russia is the disinterested friend of the oppressed Christians has quite passed away. It may be urged that Russian finances are not in a position to stand the drain of a war, and that her administrative resources are even now overtaxed. The obvious reply is that the question of finance has been before now to give way to Imperial aggrandizement, and as to Russia having already too much on her hands, the Danube provinces, or so much of Turkey as she might be able to secure, would turn out a feeder rather than a sucker of her administrative resources. Still, it must not be forgotten that Russia is only one of the family of nations, and that she must, as others do, bow to international usage and international courtesies. She cannot pursue a path of her own entirely apart from some at least of the other Powers. An effectual means of checking the designs of Russia may be practiced by the Turks in granting all that she asks for in reason, and showing that they at least are sincere in bringing about a better state of things. If events foretell themselves, this is the policy they will pursue; it is, indeed, the policy which has ever been in vogue at Constantinople since the establishment of these negotiations.

The question of the Imperial Alliance has received a renewed attention this week in consequence of the speech of the Emperor of Germany at the opening of the German Parliament on Monday. A double and entirely diverse meaning has been attached to the Emperor's words, and they are hailed at once as a declaration of an alliance with Russia and as an indication that Germany has no desire to interfere in the quarrels of other nations except by friendly mediation. The words certainly appear to favor both views, but possibly this is an instance of the use of language to conceal rather than to express thought. The Emperor William declares that "the

foreign relations of Germany are, notwithstanding the present difficulties of the political situation, in full accord with the pacific policy pursued by his Majesty. His Majesty's constant and assiduous endeavor is to preserve friendly relations with all powers, especially those connected with Germany by ties of neighborhood and history, and as far as peace may be endangered among such, to preserve it by friendly mediation among them." Further on the Emperor asserts that "whatever the future may have in store, Germany may rest assured that the blood of her sons will be sacrificed or risked only for the protection of her own honor and her own interests." Past experience has shown us how to estimate Emperor's declarations of peace. Napoleon was never tired of informing the Corps Législatif that the Empire was one of Peace. Probably, after all, notwithstanding the candor, the Emperor William and Bismarck are the best-informed persons in Europe as to the foreign policy of Germany.

RESULTS OF THE ENFORCED ARMISTICE. THE TURKS RESTRAINED BY RUSSIA FROM CONQUERING SERBIA—PROBABILITY OF GREAT BRITAIN BEING INVOLVED IN THE WAR—A SETTLEMENT EXPECTED FROM THE CONFERENCE—THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT OUTWITTED. [FROM AN OCCASIONAL CORRESPONDENT OF THE TRIBUNE.] LONDON, Nov. 4.—The two months' armistice is now a matter beyond the possibility of doubt. Hostilities have ceased in the Moravia Valley, but not before the Turks had materially strengthened their military position in following up the victories of the early part of the week, and securing Alexinatz, Djinnis, and Deligrad. In case of the renewal of hostilities they will thus be placed in a much more favorable position than any they have occupied since the commencement of the war. The friends of Turkey have made vigorous efforts to induce the belief that the Russian ultimatum was not the cause of the speedy acceptance of the armistice. A labored effort has been made to show that the Porte had consented to the armistice before the Russian ultimatum had arrived. Foremost among those who have made these efforts have been *The Daily Telegraph*, whose correspondent at Constantinople telegraphed on Monday night that the negotiations for a six weeks' armistice were finally concluded then. In spite of the aspect of its subsequent events, *The Telegraph* firmly adheres to its position, and even indulges in self-commendation of its enterprise in thus heralding to the world information which, notwithstanding its want of truth, it thinks ought to have prevented the excitement caused by the receipt of the intelligence of the Russian ultimatum. The Porte has doubtless given us several recent instances of improved vitality, but I am afraid it must be admitted that but for the peremptory message which Gen. Ignatieff delivered on Monday night the armistice would still have been becoming in the future. At all hazards a desperate effort had to be made to improve the Turkish military position before they retired from the struggle. On Monday night the first fruits of this desperate effort were being reaped, and it is not likely that they would have stayed their hands till they had delivered the blow with all its force and had had sufficient time to see its results. The ultimatum was like a shell in their camp and it might have scattered their fondest hopes. It did not, however, do so, for in the 48 hours which were given them they managed to occupy those fortresses they have been so long struggling to obtain. The Turks from a military point of view and as masters of the situation, but in the moment of complete victory they have been compelled to stay their hands and grant an armistice of two months.

How will the time thus gained be used and what results will be attained are questions which give rise to some anxiety. It is quite an open question whether the ensuing two months will prove the prelude of peace or whether they will result in war, which, if recommenced, will certainly not remain within its hitherto circumscribed limits. It may be taken for granted, if war should be renewed, that Turkey will have to encounter not merely a war waged through Serbia by the Pan-Slavic societies, but that she will have to meet, face to face, their supposed greatest friend, Russia. How long such a contest would remain localized between Russia and Turkey is a matter of little doubt. England's neutrality will only last so long as her interests are not threatened, and Russian victories in Turkey would not be long in doing something which would be taken as inimical to British interests. Here, then, is a genuine danger ahead, and it can only be the strong interests in the direction of peace of all the European Powers which can avert it. If a renewal of hostilities will mean, as it seems it inevitably will, a general European scramble which no nation is in a position to enter into, it may be taken as a hopeful augury for the future that the collective interests of Europe are in the direction of peace. Much, however, must depend upon the method of the negotiations. If they are carried on by means of a conference of the Powers in which all, including Turkey, are admitted, there is much less chance of misunderstanding and much more opportunity of compromise than if the matter is left to the ambassadors at Constantinople. A conference will in all probability be called, and much will depend upon the spirit with which it is entered into, and perhaps something on the place in which it is held. On the whole the prospects of a final peace are no less hopeful now than they were two days ago. It is doubtful, however, if the suggested conference will settle for all time the Eastern difficulty.

The attitude of France in the present crisis has been a matter of somewhat anxious speculation in the extent of the past few weeks. The internal position of the country and a recollection of 1871 tended to the impression that she would perform but a mediocre part in the coming struggle. The desire of France to maintain her position in the councils of Europe, and her wish not to be regarded as an onerous force to be left out in the cold, also formed an important factor in the consideration of the question. The Duc Decazes has set at doubt at rest, for at the opening of the French Chambers yesterday he was very emphatic in laying it down that peace was the first and most essential of the national wants of France. It was by peace alone, he said, that France could devote herself to her internal reorganization and to repair little by little the disasters of a recent past. The Duke is evidently hopeful of the pacific result of the present position. The armistice which has just been concluded marks in his opinion a first stage in the path of peace and announces an initial success for a policy of conciliation. He however reminds the Chamber that France has lost no opportunity of pleading the just cause of the Christians in the East, and he claims that a publication of the correspondence will show that the Government of the French Republic has taken a proper position in the European contest. Non-intervention on the part of France is thus assured at all events with the present Ministry.

The Marquis of Hartington spoke last night for the first time since Parliament separated, and his remarks on the Eastern question have derived a double force from his position as leader of the opposition and from the fact that he has just returned from an extended tour in Turkey. He sharply criticized many of the points in the Government policy of the late Mr. Gladstone, and he was quite agreeable to the present attitude. Lord Hartington quite agrees that no hope of better things is to come from the unassisted hands of the Porte, and that no amount of promises they may make will be of any use unless accompanied by guarantees for their fulfillment. His Lordship is of opinion that the revelation of the atrocities in Bulgaria served to expose the true character of Turkish rule, and so to lead Lord Derby from the position which he originally assumed and compel him to join with the true friends of Europe in a more active policy. He is, however, quite sure that the necessity which seems in danger of being partially lost sight of—of bearing in mind that the first object of the negotiations is to ameliorate the condition of the Christians in the East, and that a few of the present complications have arisen in consequence

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foreign relations of Germany are, notwithstanding the present difficulties of the political situation, in full accord with the pacific policy pursued by his Majesty. His Majesty's constant and assiduous endeavor is to preserve friendly relations with all powers, especially those connected with Germany by ties of neighborhood and history, and as far as peace may be endangered among such, to preserve it by friendly mediation among them." Further on the Emperor asserts that "whatever the future may have in store, Germany may rest assured that the blood of her sons will be sacrificed or risked only for the protection of her own honor and her own interests." Past experience has shown us how to estimate Emperor's declarations of peace. Napoleon was never tired of informing the Corps Législatif that the Empire was one of Peace. Probably, after all, notwithstanding the candor, the Emperor William and Bismarck are the best-informed persons in Europe as to the foreign policy of Germany.

RESULTS OF THE ENFORCED ARMISTICE. THE TURKS RESTRAINED BY RUSSIA FROM CONQUERING SERBIA—PROBABILITY OF GREAT BRITAIN BEING INVOLVED IN THE WAR—A SETTLEMENT EXPECTED FROM THE CONFERENCE—THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT OUTWITTED. [FROM AN OCCASIONAL CORRESPONDENT OF THE TRIBUNE.] LONDON, Nov. 4.—The two months' armistice is now a matter beyond the possibility of doubt. Hostilities have ceased in the Moravia Valley, but not before the Turks had materially strengthened their military position in following up the victories of the early part of the week, and securing Alexinatz, Djinnis, and Deligrad. In case of the renewal of hostilities they will thus be placed in a much more favorable position than any they have occupied since the commencement of the war. The friends of Turkey have made vigorous efforts to induce the belief that the Russian ultimatum was not the cause of the speedy acceptance of the armistice. A labored effort has been made to show that the Porte had consented to the armistice before the Russian ultimatum had arrived. Foremost among those who have made these efforts have been *The Daily Telegraph*, whose correspondent at Constantinople telegraphed on Monday night that the negotiations for a six weeks' armistice were finally concluded then. In spite of the aspect of its subsequent events, *The Telegraph* firmly adheres to its position, and even indulges in self-commendation of its enterprise in thus heralding to the world information which, notwithstanding its want of truth, it thinks ought to have prevented the excitement caused by the receipt of the intelligence of the Russian ultimatum. The Porte has doubtless given us several recent instances of improved vitality, but I am afraid it must be admitted that but for the peremptory message which Gen. Ignatieff delivered on Monday night the armistice would still have been becoming in the future. At all hazards a desperate effort had to be made to improve the Turkish military position before they retired from the struggle. On Monday night the first fruits of this desperate effort were being reaped, and it is not likely that they would have stayed their hands till they had delivered the blow with all its force and had had sufficient time to see its results. The ultimatum was like a shell in their camp and it might have scattered their fondest hopes. It did not, however, do so, for in the 48 hours which were given them they managed to occupy those fortresses they have been so long struggling to obtain. The Turks from a military point of view and as masters of the situation, but in the moment of complete victory they have been compelled to stay their hands and grant an armistice of two months.

How will the time thus gained be used and what results will be attained are questions which give rise to some anxiety. It is quite an open question whether the ensuing two months will prove the prelude of peace or whether they will result in war, which, if recommenced, will certainly not remain within its hitherto circumscribed limits. It may be taken for granted, if war should be renewed, that Turkey will have to encounter not merely a war waged through Serbia by the Pan-Slavic societies, but that she will have to meet, face to face, their supposed greatest friend, Russia. How long such a contest would remain localized between Russia and Turkey is a matter of little doubt. England's neutrality will only last so long as her interests are not threatened, and Russian victories in Turkey would not be long in doing something which would be taken as inimical to British interests. Here, then, is a genuine danger ahead, and it can only be the strong interests in the direction of peace of all the European Powers which can avert it. If a renewal of hostilities will mean, as it seems it inevitably will, a general European scramble which no nation is in a position to enter into, it may be taken as a hopeful augury for the future that the collective interests of Europe are in the direction of peace. Much, however, must depend upon the method of the negotiations. If they are carried on by means of a conference of the Powers in which all, including Turkey, are admitted, there is much less chance of misunderstanding and much more opportunity of compromise than if the matter is left to the ambassadors at Constantinople. A conference will in all probability be called, and much will depend upon the spirit with which it is entered into, and perhaps something on the place in which it is held. On the whole the prospects of a final peace are no less hopeful now than they were two days ago. It is doubtful, however, if the suggested conference will settle for all time the Eastern difficulty.

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## THE FASHIONS.

HINTS FOR EARLY WINTER. INTRODUCTION OF NEW GENUS AND MINERALS—LATE OPENINGS OF COSTUMES, BONNETS, AND ALL STYLES OF FURS.

The aim of designers and engravers on metals and precious stones is to revive the artistic metal and gem work of the sixteenth century and the period of the Renaissance. Marvellously beautiful settings for jewelry are done in response. The desire for change has introduced jewelry fashioned of rich stones, like Labrador feldspar, azure-blue in hue. It takes an exquisite polish, its elegant reflection making it extremely popular. Artistic examples may be seen in various designs for ornament, as well as in table tops and articles of *certu*. It is blue, bronze-red, yellow, blue-green, or purple. Another stone is the Oriental chrysolite, greenish-yellow, with brown lines. When faceted, it has an opalescent hue